

eight hours, then bivied at the Col, but the weather changed, so we returned to Chaltén via the Wind Col in two days. During this trip, we used snow shoes for the approach and the return on the Hielo Continental (October 14-18). On the return, we traveled for three days via the Passo Marconi with skis and pulka to the Circo de los Altaves. From there, we approached the Ferrari route in a half day with a bivy 450 meters beneath the Col of Hope. From this bivy, from October 27-28, we free climbed (no aid, no jumaring) the Ferrari route (VI 6+, 800m) until 40 meters from the top (the rime was too bad for climbing; also, I had fallen 15 meters while on The Helmet, one of the hardest pitches of the route). We rappelled the same day via the same route to our bivy.

On November 15 and 16, we climbed *Tomahawk* (IV 6 A1) and *Exocet* (V 6). We started climbing *Tomahawk* at 12:30 a.m. and bivied at the bottom of *Exocet*. The day after we climbed *Exocet* to the top of Stanhardt and rappelled to base camp (Norwegian Camp) the same day. We free climbed both routes except for five meters at the bottom of *Tomahawk*. During the 80 days we spent in the region in 1996 and 1997, we had 20 days of good weather.

BRUNO SOURZAC, *France*

Cerro Torre, Compressor Route, and Fitz Roy, West Face, Attempt. On February 11, British legal alien Kevin Thaw and I climbed the *Compressor* route from the Norwegian Camp, making the trip in 27 hours. Earlier, we had attempted a new route on the west face of Fitz Roy, following approximately the same line as Joe Josephson and Jack Tackle. (The west face has one route, a 57-pitch 5.10 free climb put up over two seasons by a Czech team in 1985-86.) We climbed approximately two-thirds of the wall, in two days, before being turned back by a storm. Several teams now have attempted to climb this huge face alpine style, with no success.

MARK SYNNOTT

ANTARCTICA

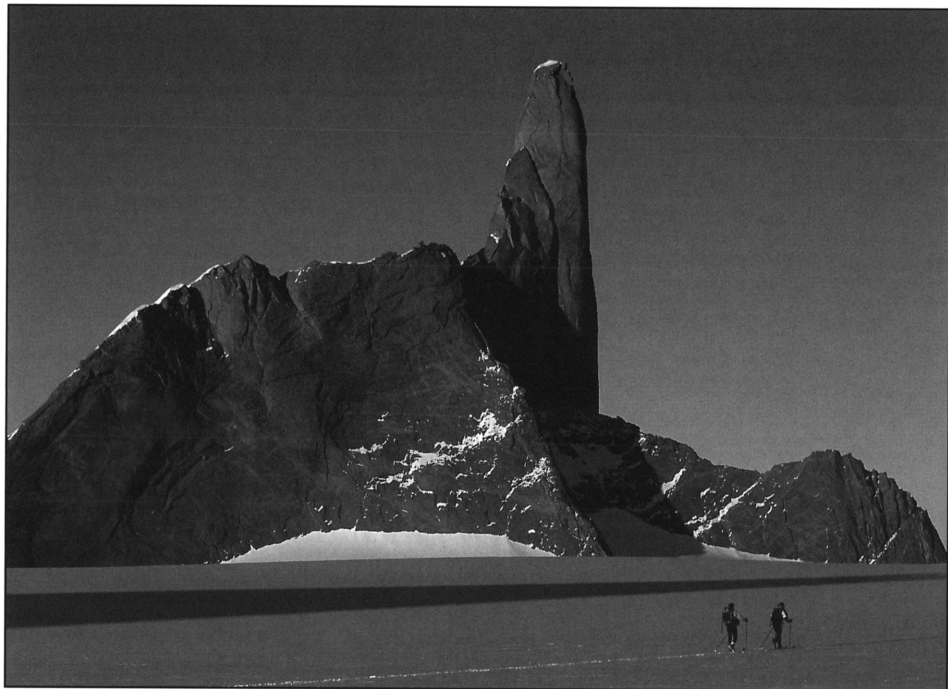
ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Lamaire Channel, Various Ascents. Greg Landreth and Keri Pashuk, with their boat Northanger, were active again in the Antarctic Peninsula, making ascents of a number of peaks with their climbing guests Rich Prohaska and Jia Condon. In late January, Landreth, Prohaska and Condon climbed *Whozuna?* (V 5.9, 18 pitches) in a 40-hour push on P.1050m in the Wall Range. Rich Prohaska and Jia Condon then climbed *Unazwhat?* (V 5.9 mixed A2) via the east buttress to the east summit of the Cape Renard Tower (a.k.a. Una's Tits, 747m) from February 1-4. An attempt of Wandel Peak (c.950m) on Booth Island was made via the north ridge in early February by all members of the group. A full account of their climbs appears earlier in this journal.

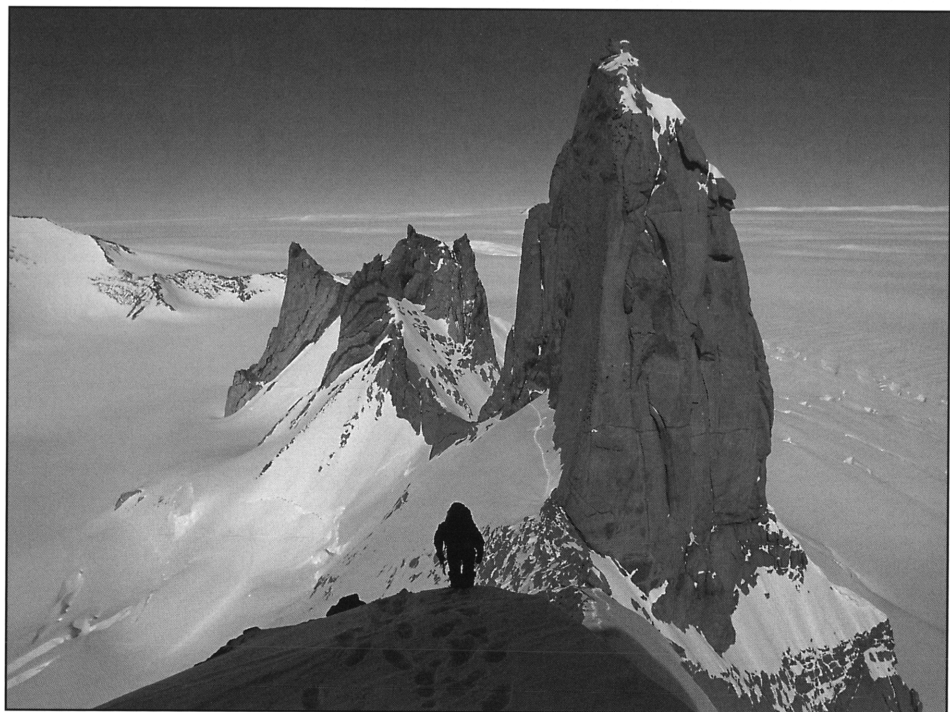
QUEEN MAUD LAND

Queen Maud Land, Various Ascents. In the 1996-97 season, I was involved with the following ascents. Gordon Wiltsie, Michael Graber, Rick Ridgeway, John Krakauer, Alex Lowe and I made the first ascent of Rakekniven via the *Snow Petrel Wall* (VI 5.10 A3) on January 5. Krakauer, Lowe and I made the first ascent of Trollslottet via *The Three Sons* (IV 5.11 AO).

Bruno Sourzac on the ice mushroom of the Ferrari route, Cerro Torre. LAURENCE MONNOYEUR



*Conrad Anker and Jon Krakauer beneath Rakekniven. The Snow Petrel Wall ascends the right skyline.
Below: on Media Peak, with Trollsloppet in the background. GORDON WILTSIE*



On Media Peak, directly across from the Trollsløppet, Graber, Ridgeway, and Wiltsie climbed a snow route that involved a pitch of 5.8 rock climbing. It was the first ascent of the peak. Both peaks were climbed on January 11. On Kyrkjeskjipit, Graber, Ridgeway and Lowe climbed an alpine route, which Lowe then skied. It was possibly the first non-helicopter ascent. On Kubus, Wiltsie, Krakauer and I climbed an alpine route. A ski descent was made by all members of the group.

CONRAD ANKER

ELLSWORTH MOUNTAINS

Antarctica, Various Ascents. From December 3, 1997 to January 19, 1998, I was in Antarctica, providing light service and ground support for scientific and recreational expeditions for Adventure Network International (ANI). During that time, I was involved with the following ascents: Minaret, a marble tower located 20 kilometers from Patriot Hills Base Camp. Alex Lowe, Steve Pinfield (camp manager, Patriot Hills) and I made the first ascent (IV 5.10 A0) on December 8. The climb involved loose rock, but generally was moderate with one 5.10 X (serious) pitch led by Alex. On December 14, Alex, Dave Hahn and I climbed Pyramid Peak (a.k.a. Peak Gyska after the first ascensionist who died in a glacier fall), a quartzite peak located on the northern end of the Patton Glacier. The climb was moderate scrambling for 1300 meters to a snow summit. A French military expedition had made the first ascent of this peak two weeks earlier. On December 16, on Mt. Tyree, the second highest peak in Antarctica, Alex Lowe and I climbed the *Grand Couloir* on the east face. The route was first climbed by a French Military team three weeks prior. Mt. Tyree's first ascent was in 1966; the second was made by Mugs Stump in November, 1989; the third, by the French; and the fourth by Alex and I. I made a repeat of the Grand Coliour, established by a French Military team three weeks prior. The climb involved 2400 meters of snow, ice and some rock scrambling. On Mt. Vinson, I did the standard route with a client (December 30), then climbed Mt. Shinn on New Year's Eve in -35°C+ wind-chill temperatures in two hours, 15 minutes. Anselme Baud (France) and I made a ski descent of the south ice stream on the west face (45-55°, 1900m) of a sub-peak of Mt. Vinson on January 2. (This sub-peak first was ascended by Jay Smith and Jo Bentley in the 1993-'94 season.) I then made a speed ascent (January 7) of the normal route on Vinson in nine hours 11 minutes round trip from Vinson Base Camp on the Branscomb Glacier in less than ideal weather. It's basically an intermediate ski run. On January, 15-16, I soloed Peak Loretan (5.8 80°) between Tyree and Epperly—2100 meters of alpine climbing on solid quartzite. (*A complete account of this climb appears earlier in this journal.*)

CONRAD ANKER

Antarctica, Various Ascents. The Norwegian pair of Patrick and Vika Gustaffson spent 17 days exploring the northern part of the Ellsworth mountains. They climbed four virgin peaks; they also climbed Mount Gardner via the original route, running out of food along the way only to discover the cache, left in 1966 by Nick Clinch's first ascent party. In the cache they found chocolate and pudding purchased in New Zealand—still edible, testimony to the continent's continuous cold.

CONRAD ANKER

Mt. Vinson Area, Various Ascents. On January 3, Viki Groselj, Stane Klemenc, Rafko Vodisek (Slovenia) and Stipe Bozic, Josko Bojic (Croatia) arrived in the Patriot Hills Base Camp. On